

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An overlapped-sheet detection apparatus can detect whether sheets are overlapped and shift the same, if overlapped, for further processing. The overlapped-sheet detection apparatus is provided with conveying belts 2a and 3a, forwarding and shifting rollers 4 and 5, motor 6 and discriminator 80. Conveying belts 2a and 3a hold and convey sheets 1 on a conveying path. Forwarding roller 4 is provided at the conveying path to forward sheets 1 in a conveying direction and forward sheets 1 in conveying direction A. Shifting roller 5 is provided opposite to forwarding roller 4 to shift sheets 1 back to direction C which is the reverse of conveying direction A if said sheets are overlapped. Motor 6 supplies shifting roller with driving torque to shift sheets 1 back to direction C reversed to conveying direction A. An encoder is built in motor 6 to detect a rotation state of shifting roller 5. Discriminator 80 judges from an output of the encoder whether sheets 1 are overlapped. When sheets are overlapped, forwarding roller 4 makes contact with upper sheet 1a and sends the same in conveying direction A but shifting roller 5 shifts lower sheet 1b in a direction reversed to conveying direction A.